

**441—75.21(249A) Health insurance premium payment (HIPP) program.** Under the HIPP program, the department shall pay for the cost of premiums, coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles for Medicaid-eligible individuals when the department determines that those costs will be less than the cost of paying for the individual's care through Medicaid including managed care capitation fees. Payment shall include only the cost to the Medicaid-eligible individual or household.

**75.21(1) Definitions.**

*"Absent parent"* means a noncustodial parent, or a parent who is not living with the member.

*"Authorized representative"* means an individual or organization authorized by a competent applicant or member, authorized by a responsible person acting for an incompetent applicant or member pursuant to 441—subrule 76.9(2), or with other legal authority to represent the applicant or member in the application process, renewal of eligibility and other ongoing communications with the department.

*"Capitation payment"* means a monthly payment to the managed care contractor on behalf of each member for the provision of health services under the managed care entity contract. Payment is made by the department regardless of whether the member receives services during the month. The managed care capitation payment varies based on the eligible member's sex, age, and eligibility aid type.

*"Cost-effective"* means a determination has been made that a savings will accrue to the department by paying the insurance premium, cost sharing, wrap benefits, and administrative cost.

*"Cost sharing"* means the member's portions of in-network health care costs not covered by an insurance plan. "Cost sharing" includes copayments, coinsurance and deductibles, which vary among health care plans.

*"Custodian"* means the person recognized as representing the interests of the member for Medicaid assistance. When the member reaches the age of 18 and the custodian is not used in determining Medicaid eligibility, there shall be legal documentation in place that the custodian is now the responsible person or authorized representative.

*"Department"* means the Iowa department of human services.

*"Employer-sponsored insurance"* or *"ESI"* means any health insurance plan paid for by a business on behalf of its employees.

*"High-deductible health plan"* or *"HDHP"* means a health insurance plan that meets the definition found in Section 223(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

*"HIPP-eligible member"* means a person whose Medicaid eligibility is calculated in the cost-effective determination for HIPP. "HIPP-eligible member" is also referred to as HIPP enrollee.

*"Household"* means the group of people who are used in the budgeting and size when determining Medicaid eligibility.

*"Individual plan"* means an insurance plan purchased through a government-run health insurance marketplace or through a local broker or agent.

*"Insurance plan"* means major medical comprehensive health coverage provided through an employer, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), a government-run health insurance marketplace, or a local broker or agent. Dental and vision plans are not considered to be insurance plans for purposes of this definition.

*"Member"* means an individual who has been determined eligible for Medicaid assistance and is enrolled to receive assistance.

*"Policyholder"* means the person in whose name an insurance policy is registered.

*"Responsible person"* means an individual recognized by the department pursuant to 441—subrule 76.9(1) as acting for an applicant or member who is unable to act on the applicant's or member's own behalf because the applicant or member is a minor or is incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased.

*"Wrap benefits"* means the services covered under the Medicaid state plans that are not paid for by insurance plans (i.e., waiver services, transportation).

**75.21(2) Insurance plans.** Participation in an insurance plan is not a condition of Medicaid eligibility. The department shall pay for the cost of the insurance plan premiums, coinsurance, copayment, and deductibles of an insurance plan for a member if:

- a. A member is enrolled in or can be added to the insurance plan; and
- b. The insurance plan is cost-effective as defined in subrule 75.21(3).

**75.21(3) *Cost-effectiveness.*** An insurance plan shall be considered cost-effective when the amount the department would pay for the member's insurance premiums, cost sharing, wrap benefits, and administrative costs is likely to be less than the amount the department would pay through Medicaid including managed care capitation fees. When determining the cost-effectiveness of an insurance plan, the following data shall be considered:

*a.* The cost to the member or household for the insurance premium, coinsurance, copayments and deductibles. No costs paid by an employer or other plan sponsor shall be considered in the cost-effectiveness determination.

*b.* The cost of care through Medicaid including managed care capitation fees the department would pay for the member.

*c.* The estimated cost of wrap benefits per member based on the member's sex, age, and eligibility aid type.

*d.* The specific health-related circumstances of the members covered under the health plan. Form 470-2868, HIPP Medical History Questionnaire, shall be used to obtain this information. When the information indicates any health conditions that could be expected to result prospectively in higher-than-average bills for any Medicaid member:

(1) If the member is currently covered by the insurance plan, the department shall request from the policyholder, or the responsible person for the member, an insurance summary of the member's paid claims for the previous 12 months. If there is sufficient evidence to indicate that such claims can be expected to continue in the next 12 months, the claims will be considered in determining the cost-effectiveness of the insurance plan. The cost of the insurance plan premium, member's cost sharing, and administrative cost are compared to the actual claims to determine the cost-effectiveness of providing the coverage.

(2) If the member was not covered by the health plan in the previous 12 months, fee-for-service paid Medicaid claims may be used to project the cost-effectiveness of the plan.

*e.* Annual administrative expenditures of \$150 per HIPP member covered under the health plan.

*f.* Whether the estimated savings to the department for members covered under the health insurance plan is at least \$5 per month per household.

**75.21(4) *Coverage of non-Medicaid-eligible family members.*** When an insurance plan is determined to be cost-effective, the department shall pay for insurance premiums for non-Medicaid-eligible family members if a non-Medicaid-eligible family member must be enrolled in the insurance plan in order to obtain coverage for the Medicaid-eligible family members. However:

*a.* The needs of the non-Medicaid-eligible family members shall not be taken into consideration when determining cost-effectiveness; and

*b.* Payments for deductibles, coinsurances or other cost-sharing obligations shall not be made on behalf of family members who are not Medicaid-eligible.

**75.21(5) *Insurance plans ineligible for reimbursement.*** Premiums shall not be paid for insurance plans under any of the following circumstances:

*a.* The insurance plan is that of an absent parent.

*b.* The insurance plan is an indemnity policy which supplements the policyholder's income or pays only a predetermined amount for services covered under the policy (e.g., \$50 per day for hospital services instead of 80 percent of the charge).

*c.* The insurance plan is a school plan offered on the basis of attendance or enrollment at the school.

*d.* The insurance premium is used to meet a spenddown obligation under the medically needy program, as provided in subrule 75.1(35), when all persons in the household are eligible or potentially eligible only under the medically needy program. When some of the household members are eligible for full Medicaid benefits under coverage groups other than medically needy, the premium shall be paid if it is determined to be cost-effective when considering only the persons receiving full Medicaid coverage. In those cases, the insurance premium shall not be allowed as a deduction to meet the spenddown obligation for those persons in the household participating in the medically needy program.

*e.* The insurance plan is designed to provide coverage only for a temporary period of time (e.g., 30 to 180 days).

*f.* The persons covered under the insurance plan are not Medicaid-eligible on the date the decision regarding eligibility for the HIPP program is made. No retroactive payments shall be made if the case is not Medicaid-eligible on the date of decision.

*g.* The person is eligible only for a coverage group that does not provide full Medicaid services.

*h.* Insurance coverage is provided through the health insurance plan of Iowa (HIPIOWA), in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 514E.

*i.* Insurance on the member(s) is maintained by someone who does not live with the member(s), is not the legal guardian of the member(s), is not a responsible person, or does not have legal permission to access the Medicaid information of the member(s) (e.g., self-supporting adult children).

*j.* The member has Medicare. If other members in the household are covered by the insurance plan, cost-effectiveness is determined without including the Medicare-covered member.

*k.* The insurance plan does not provide major medical coverage but pays only for specific situations (i.e., accident plans) or illnesses (i.e., cancer policy).

*l.* The health plan pays secondary to another plan.

*m.* The only Medicaid member is in foster care.

*n.* The member is active for Medicaid under Medicaid for children with disabilities (i.e., Medicaid for kids with special needs (MKSNN)), pursuant to subrule 75.1(43). Any other Medicaid members in the household who are covered by the health plan shall be determined for cost-effectiveness.

*o.* The insurance plan is limited due to preexisting conditions.

*p.* The insurance plan is a subsidized insurance plan purchased through a government-run health insurance exchange.

*q.* On the date the decision regarding eligibility for the HIPP program is made, the insurance is no longer available.

*r.* The insurance plan is an HDHP.

**75.21(6) *Department evaluation of ESI plans.*** When evaluating ESI plans available through an employer, if there is more than one cost-effective insurance plan available, the department shall pay the premium for only one plan. The member may choose the cost-effective plan in which to enroll.

**75.21(7) *Effective date of premium payment.*** The effective date of premium payments for a cost-effective health plan shall be determined as follows:

*a.* Premium payments shall begin the later of:

(1) The first day of the month in which Form 470-2844, Employer's Statement of Earnings; Form 470-2875, Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Application; or Form H301-1, the automated HIPP referral; is received by the HIPP unit; or

(2) The first day of the first month in which the health plan is determined to be cost-effective.

*b.* If the person is not enrolled in the insurance plan when eligibility for participation in the HIPP program is established, premium payments shall begin in the month in which the first premium payment is due after enrollment occurs.

*c.* If there was a lapse in coverage during the application process (e.g., the health plan is dropped and reenrollment occurs at a later date), premium payments shall not be made for any period of time before the current effective date of coverage.

*d.* In no case shall payments be made for premiums that were used as a deduction to income for determining client participation or the amount of the spenddown obligation.

*e.* Form 470-3036, Employer Verification of Insurance Coverage, shall be used to verify the effective date of coverage and costs for persons enrolled in group health plans through an employer.

*f.* The effective date of coverage of an insurance plan not obtained through an employer shall be verified by a copy of the certificate of coverage for the plan or by some other verification from the insurer.

**75.21(8) *Method of premium payment.*** Payments of premiums will be made directly to the insurance carrier except as follows:

*a.* The department may arrange for payment to an employer in order to circumvent a payroll deduction.

b. When an employer will not agree to accept premium payments from the department in lieu of a payroll deduction to the employee's wages, the department shall reimburse the employee directly for payroll deductions or for payments made directly to the employer for the payment of premiums. The department shall issue reimbursement to the employee five working days before the employee's pay date.

c. When premium payments are occurring through an automatic withdrawal from a bank account by the insurance carrier, the department may reimburse the policyholder for those withdrawals.

d. Payments for COBRA coverage shall be made directly to the insurance carrier, the COBRA administrator, or the former employer. Payments may be made directly to the former employee only in those cases where:

- (1) Information cannot be obtained for direct payment; or
- (2) The department pays for only part of the total premium.

**75.21(9) *Payment of claims.*** Claims from medical providers for persons participating in this program shall be paid in the same manner as claims are paid for other persons with a third-party resource in accordance with the provisions of 441—Chapters 79 and 80.

**75.21(10) *Reviews of cost-effectiveness and eligibility.*** Reviews of cost-effectiveness and eligibility shall be completed annually and may be conducted more frequently at the discretion of the department.

a. Annual review of ESI cost-effectiveness and eligibility shall be completed using Form 470-3016, Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program Review.

b. Annual review of individual health plan cost-effectiveness and eligibility shall be completed using Form 470-3017, HIPP Private Policy Review.

c. Failure of the household to cooperate in the annual review process shall result in cancellation of premium payment.

d. Redeterminations shall be completed whenever:

- (1) A premium rate, copayment, deductible, or coinsurance changes;
- (2) A person covered under the policy loses full Medicaid eligibility;
- (3) Changes in employment or hours of employment affect the availability of an insurance plan;
- (4) The insurance carrier changes;
- (5) The policyholder leaves the Medicaid home;
- (6) There is a decrease in the services covered under the policy; or
- (7) The Medicaid category of coverage changes.

e. The policyholder shall report changes that may affect the availability of the insurance plan reimbursed by the HIPP program, or changes that affect the cost-effectiveness of the policy, within ten calendar days from the date of the change.

f. If a change in the number of members in the Medicaid household causes the health plan not to be cost-effective, lesser health plan options, as defined in paragraph 75.21(15) "a," shall be considered if available and cost-effective.

g. When employment ends, hours of employment are reduced, or some other qualifying event affecting the availability of the group health plan occurs, the department shall verify whether coverage may be continued under the provisions of COBRA.

(1) Form 470-3037, Employer Verification of COBRA Eligibility, may be used for this purpose.

(2) If cost-effective to do so, the department shall pay premiums to maintain insurance coverage for members after the occurrence of the event which would otherwise result in termination of coverage.

**75.21(11) *Time frames for determining cost-effectiveness.*** The department shall determine cost-effectiveness of the insurance plan and notify the applicant of the decision regarding payment of the premiums within 65 calendar days from the date an application or referral (as defined in subrule 75.21(7)) is received. Additional time may be taken when, for reasons beyond the control of the department or the applicant, information needed to establish cost-effectiveness cannot be obtained within the 65-day period.

**75.21(12) *Notices.***

a. Adequate notice shall be provided to the household under the following circumstances:

- (1) To inform the household of the initial decision on cost-effectiveness and premium payment.

(2) To inform the household that premium payments are being discontinued because Medicaid eligibility has been lost by all persons covered under the health plan.

(3) The insurance plan is no longer available to the family (e.g., the employer no longer provides health insurance coverage or the policy is terminated by the insurance company).

*b.* The department shall provide timely and adequate notice as defined in 441—subrule 7.7(1) to inform the household of a decision to discontinue payment of the health insurance premium because:

(1) The department has determined the insurance plan is no longer cost-effective; or

(2) The member has failed to cooperate in providing information necessary to establish continued eligibility for the HIPP program.

**75.21(13) *Rate refund.*** The department shall be entitled to any rate refund made when the insurance carrier determines a return of premiums to the policyholder is due for any time period for which the department paid the premium.

**75.21(14) *Reinstatement of HIPP eligibility.***

*a.* When eligibility for the HIPP program is canceled because the persons covered under the insurance plan lose Medicaid eligibility, HIPP eligibility shall be reinstated when Medicaid eligibility is reestablished if all other eligibility factors are met.

*b.* When HIPP eligibility is canceled because of the policyholder's failure to cooperate in providing information necessary to establish continued eligibility for the HIPP program, benefits shall be reinstated the first day of the first month in which cooperation occurs, if all other eligibility factors are met.

**75.21(15) *Amount of insurance premium paid.***

*a.* For ESI plans, the policyholder shall provide verification of the cost of all possible insurance plan options (i.e., single, employee/children, family).

(1) The HIPP program shall pay only for the option that provides coverage to the cost-effective members of the household.

(2) The HIPP program shall not pay the portion of the premium cost which is the responsibility of the employer or other plan sponsor.

*b.* For individual health plans, the HIPP program shall pay the cost of covering the cost-effective members covered by the plan.

*c.* For insurance plans, if another household member must be covered to obtain coverage for the members, the HIPP program shall pay the cost of covering that household member if the coverage is cost-effective as determined pursuant to subrules 75.21(3) and 75.21(4).

**75.21(16) *Reporting changes.*** Failure to report and verify changes may result in cancellation of HIPP benefits.

*a.* The policyholder shall verify changes by providing a pay stub, a summary of benefits and coverage, a rate sheet, or a letter from the insurance carrier reflecting the change.

*b.* Changes in employment or the employment-related insurance carrier shall be verified by the employer.

*c.* Any benefits paid during a period in which there was ineligibility for HIPP due to unreported changes shall be subject to recovery in accordance with the provisions of 441—Chapter 11.

*d.* Any underpayment that results from an unreported change shall be paid effective the first day of the month in which the change is reported.

**75.21(17) *Discontinuation of premium payments.***

*a.* When the household loses Medicaid eligibility, premium payments shall be discontinued as of the month of Medicaid ineligibility.

*b.* When only part of the household loses Medicaid eligibility, the department shall complete a review in order to ascertain whether payment of the health insurance premium continues to be cost-effective. If the department determines that the insurance plan is no longer cost-effective, premium payment shall be discontinued pending timely and adequate notice.

*c.* If the household fails to cooperate in providing information necessary to establish ongoing eligibility for the HIPP program, the department shall discontinue premium payment after timely and

adequate notice. The department shall request all information in writing and allow the household ten calendar days in which to provide it.

*d.* If the policyholder leaves the Medicaid household, premium payments shall be discontinued pending timely and adequate notice.

*e.* If the insurance plan is no longer available or the policy has lapsed, premium payments shall be discontinued as of the effective date of the termination of the coverage.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 249A.3.  
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